

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PASSWORD
PROTECTING A BOOT DEVICE

5 A data processing system and method of password protecting the boot of a data
processing system are disclosed. According to the method, in response to an attempt to boot
the data processing system utilizing a boot device, the boot device is interrogated for a
password. If the boot device supplies password information corresponding to that of a
10 trusted boot device, the data processing system boots utilizing the boot device. If, however,
the boot device does not supply password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot
device, booting from the boot device is inhibited. In a preferred embodiment, the password
information comprises a unique combination of the boot device's manufacturer-supplied
model and serial numbers.

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